

Maryland Monthly Labor Review

July, 1994

**Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201**

**William Donald Schaefer, Governor
Mark L. Wasserman, Secretary**

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Seasonal economics continued to play an important role in Maryland's labor market movements during July. The number of jobholders rose as employers rounded out their seasonal hiring. As is the norm, the unemployment rate declined over the month, falling from 5.6 percent in June to 5.3 percent in July.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged over the month at 6.2 percent, topping the statewide estimate by almost a full percentage point.

The labor force normally peaks in July as the last rush of summer jobseekers enters the labor

market. Just over 41,000 jobseekers entered the labor market, pushing the labor force up over the 2.7 million mark. Employment expanded at a slightly higher rate, compensating for this increase and boosting nearly 7,450 previously unemployed workers into jobs.

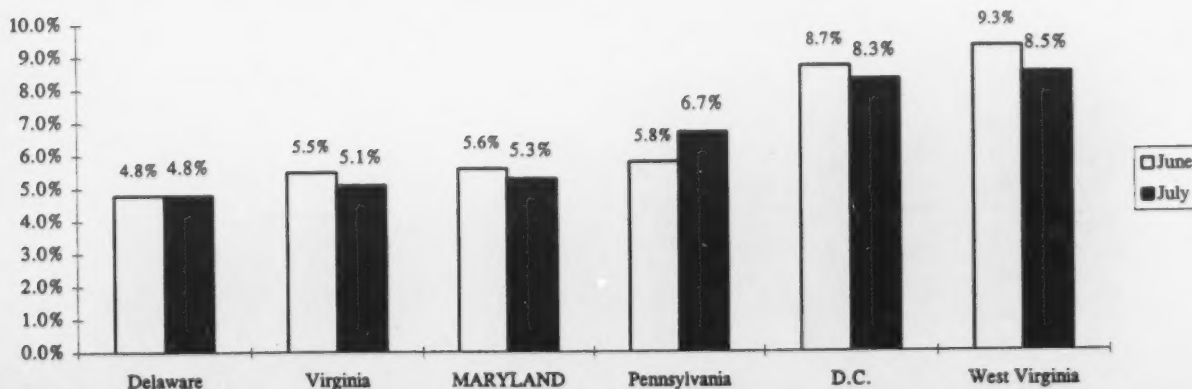
Jobseekers relied solely on seasonal hiring during July. Aside from normal summer patterns, employment growth was limited. Most of the jobseekers entering the labor market ended up among the unemployed, causing the seasonally adjusted rate to rise to 5.5 percent in July.

	July 1994	Unadjusted June 1994	Seasonally Adjusted July 1994	Seasonally Adjusted June 1994
Civilian Labor Force	2,735,788	2,694,665	2,671,341	2,663,836
Total Employment	2,591,833	2,543,273	2,525,145	2,525,088
Total Unemployment	143,955	151,392	146,196	138,748
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.2
National Unemployment Rate		6.2	6.1	6.0

Unemployment rates declined or held steady in four of the five states surrounding Maryland. West Virginia, while maintaining the highest rate, reported the largest over the month decline. In

Pennsylvania, the only state to evidence a jobless increase, employment declines caused the unemployment rate to rise by almost a full percentage point to 6.7 percent in July.

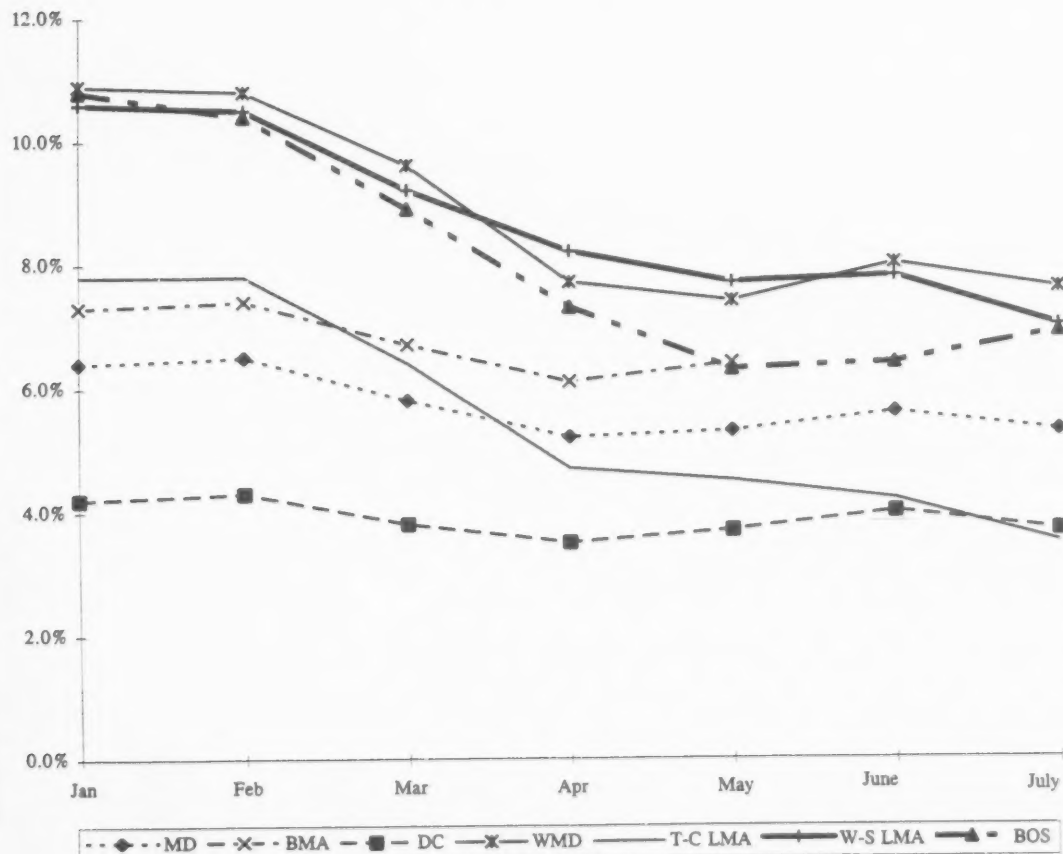
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEIGHBORING STATES—JULY 1994



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

Area	JULY 1994		JUNE 1994	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Maryland	143,955	5.3%	151,392	5.6%
Baltimore Metropolitan Area	77,897	6.3%	82,365	6.8%
Maryland's DC Suburbs	42,547	3.7%	45,339	4.0%
Western Maryland	8,739	7.6%	9,008	8.0%
Talbot-Caroline LMA	1,255	3.5%	1,467	4.2%
Wicomico-Somerset LMA	4,249	7.0%	4,775	7.8%
Balance of State	9,270	6.9%	8,438	6.4%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - JANUARY-JULY 1994



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Seasonal expansion raised employment to 1,158,365-its highest level in two years. Aided by this increase, joblessness in the region moved down from 6.8 percent to 6.3 percent. July's decline meant that about 4,500 fewer persons were without a job during the month. Locally, unemployment trends were mixed. Baltimore City's rate improved markedly, falling by a full

percentage point to 9.4 percent. In those counties where jobless increases were reported, specifically Carroll, Harford and Queen Anne's, short-term furloughs in manufacturing added workers to the unemployment rolls. Industrial activity in the region followed statewide trends, with education-related declines influencing the overall movement.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Employment in the region increased by nearly 22,000 persons, helping to lower the unemployment rate from 4.0 percent to 3.7 percent. Declining unemployment was the norm throughout the region. Unemployment rates in both Calvert and Prince George's counties, while topping the regional average, showed the largest

downward movement, of 0.5 percentage points, over the month. While growth in the region's industry employment was checked by continuing reductions in state and local education, hiring activity, of note, was reported in construction, amusements/recreation, health services, membership organizations and social services.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Unemployment in the region, while remaining the highest in the state, dropped from 8.0 percent to 7.6 percent. Employment in the region reached its seasonal peak in July, rising to 105,598. Employment advanced and unemployment

declined in each of the local jurisdictions. While temporary layoffs in manufacturing and education were reported, the impact of these declines was diminished by seasonal hiring in construction, health services, business services and restaurants.

TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA

Unemployment in the area moved down by 0.7 percentage points to 3.5 percent, with both of the local jurisdictions contributing to this decline. Employment moved up by 662 persons, an increase which was almost evenly distributed between Caroline and Talbot. In Caroline, labor

force expansion was limited to just 1.0 percent, helping to maximize employment growth and reduce the jobless rate by almost a full percentage point to 4.3 percent. Talbot's rate dropped to a statewide low of 2.8 percent, ousting Montgomery County from its long held position.

WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA

An estimated 7.0 percent of the labor force were unemployed during July, down from 7.8 percent in June. The regional jobless decline was confined

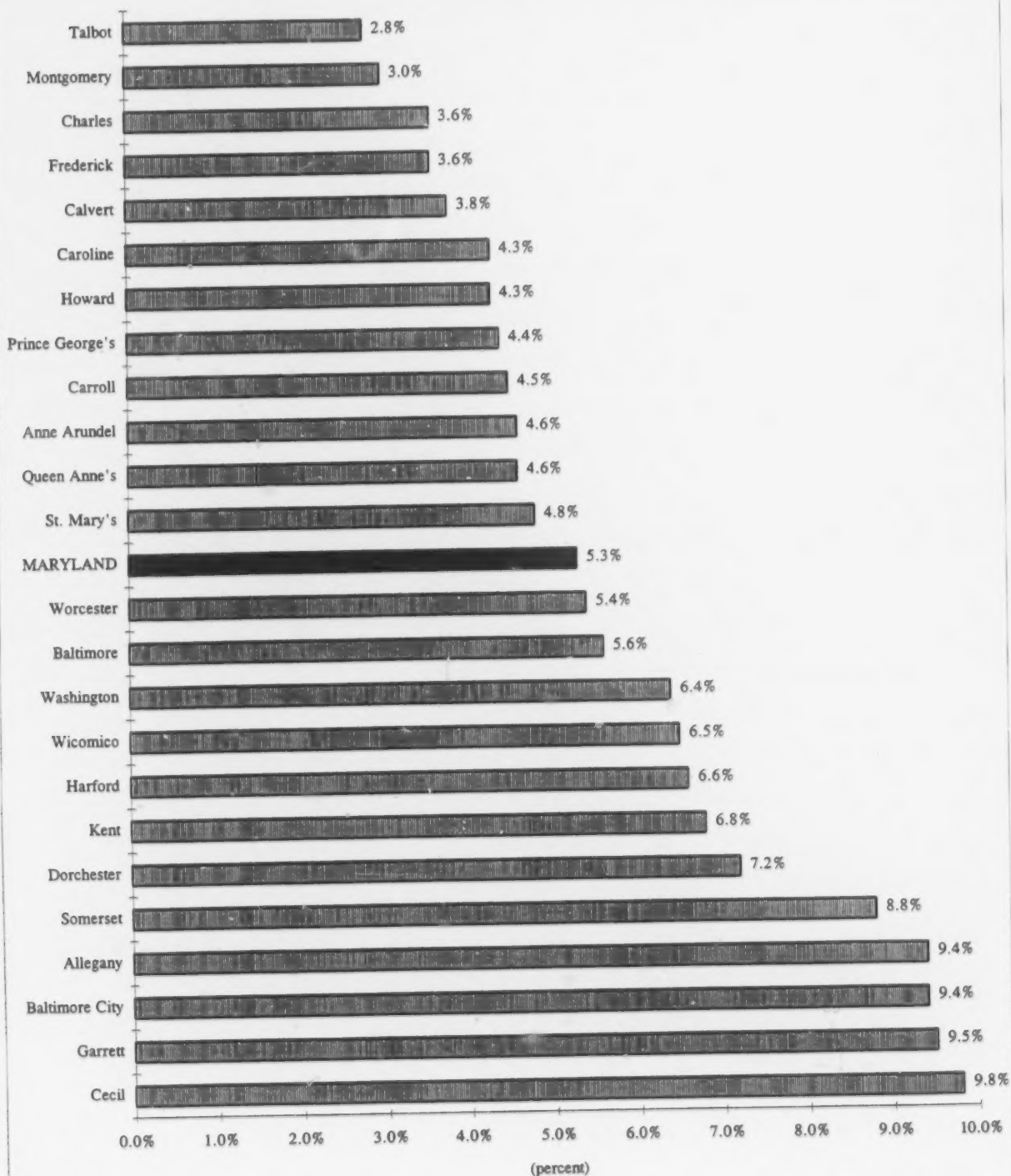
solely to Somerset where seasonal hiring in food processing moved the county's rate out of double-digits to 8.8 percent in July.

BALANCE OF STATE

Unemployment in the shore area, reacting to a strong movement in Cecil County, rose from 6.4 percent to 6.9 percent. In Cecil, a temporary shutdown in Delaware's auto industry affected the employment status of local residents, causing

the county's jobless rate to rise by almost three full percentage points. Elsewhere in the region, unemployment rates declined as seasonal hiring in trade and services continued to improve local labor market conditions.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--JULY 1994



**STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
JULY 1994**

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JULY	JUNE*	JULY	JUNE*	JULY	JUNE*	JULY	JUNE*	JULY 1993***
MARYLAND	2,735,788	2,694,665	2,591,833	2,543,273	143,955	151,392	5.3	5.6	6.1
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,236,262	1,218,962	1,158,365	1,136,597	77,897	82,365	6.3	6.8	7.4
BALTIMORE CITY	325,244	322,445	294,532	288,997	30,712	33,448	9.4	10.4	10.7
ANNE ARUNDEL	230,583	227,004	219,966	215,832	10,617	11,172	4.6	4.9	5.7
BALTIMORE	374,930	370,394	354,028	347,375	20,902	23,019	5.6	6.2	7.0
CARROLL	69,290	67,659	66,141	64,898	3,149	2,761	4.5	4.1	5.7
HARFORD	101,903	99,659	95,214	93,425	6,689	6,234	6.6	6.3	6.2
HOWARD	116,286	114,135	111,287	109,196	4,999	4,939	4.3	4.3	4.6
QUEEN ANNE'S	18,028	17,666	17,198	16,875	830	791	4.6	4.5	5.8
D. C. AREA	1,153,554	1,134,769	1,111,007	1,089,430	42,547	45,339	3.7	4.0	4.2
CALVERT	33,121	32,630	31,853	31,234	1,268	1,396	3.8	4.3	4.6
CHARLES	61,095	60,024	58,868	57,725	2,227	2,299	3.6	3.8	4.1
FREDERICK	95,162	93,619	91,738	89,956	3,424	3,663	3.6	3.9	4.2
MONTGOMERY	489,691	480,903	475,174	465,946	14,517	14,957	3.0	3.1	3.3
PRINCE GEORGE'S	474,485	467,591	453,374	444,568	21,111	23,023	4.4	4.9	5.1
WESTERN MARYLAND	114,337	112,566	105,598	103,558	8,739	9,008	7.6	8.0	9.5
ALLEGANY	33,192	32,860	30,076	29,709	3,116	3,151	9.4	9.6	10.2
GARRETT	14,112	13,987	12,770	12,612	1,342	1,375	9.5	9.8	11.4
WASHINGTON	67,033	65,719	62,752	61,237	4,281	4,482	6.4	6.8	8.7
TALBOT-CAROLINE LMA	35,543	35,093	34,288	33,626	1,255	1,467	3.5	4.2	4.7
CAROLINE	16,427	16,262	15,716	15,412	711	850	4.3	5.2	6.6
TALBOT	19,116	18,831	18,572	18,214	544	617	2.8	3.3	3.0
WICOMICO-SOMERSET LMA	60,888	60,850	56,639	56,075	4,249	4,775	7.0	7.8	6.9
SOMERSET	11,795	12,311	10,760	10,653	1,035	1,658	8.8	13.5	8.8
WICOMICO	49,093	48,539	45,879	45,422	3,214	3,117	6.5	6.4	6.4
BAIANCE OF STATE	135,205	132,424	125,935	123,986	9,270	8,438	6.9	6.4	7.0
CECIL	40,045	38,317	36,123	35,663	3,922	2,654	9.8	6.9	8.0
DORCHESTER	17,557	17,370	16,300	16,070	1,257	1,300	7.2	7.5	7.7
KENT	11,284	11,116	10,516	10,352	768	764	6.8	6.9	8.9
ST. MARY'S	44,579	44,023	42,431	41,682	2,148	2,341	4.8	5.3	5.8
WORCESTER	21,740	21,598	20,565	20,219	1,175	1,379	5.4	6.4	6.1
UNITED STATES**	132,783,000	132,115,000	124,503,000	123,864,000	8,281,000	8,251,000	6.2	6.2	6.9

*Estimates for the state are revised.

**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

***Data for 1994 are not directly comparable with data for 1993 and earlier years. Further information is available upon request.

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF WORK

While seasonal hiring continued to uplift employment in some business sectors during July, the benefit of these gains was obscured by a second month of semester break reductions in education and related industries. As is the norm during July, the overall job count spiraled downward with about 16,600 fewer jobs reported for the month.

In the public sector, payrolls at public colleges and universities, community colleges and local boards of education, when combined, were diminished by just over 24,000 jobs. The impact of these declines on total government was lessened to a degree by hiring elsewhere in government. Noneducation payrolls rose by 6,200 jobs, with local governments hiring workers to staff recreational facilities and maintenance crews.

Semester break activity also affected employment in selected private sector industries. In the transportation sector, about 1,700 fewer jobs were reported. Layoff activity by private school bus carriers accounted for a good portion of the drop. The services sector was hampered by reductions at private colleges and universities which covered about 1,100 jobs. The services sector overall registered on the plus side, with seasonal expansion in amusements/recreation, hotels and membership organizations helping to offset cuts in education services. These gains, combined with advances in health and business services, netted a monthly increase of about 2,000 jobs in the industry.

Elsewhere on private sector payrolls, construction and finance/insurance/real estate were the only other industry groups to report hiring. Employment in construction rose by 2,900 jobs over the month, with gains reported across the state's four regions. The upturn was more pronounced in the Baltimore Metro Area where just over two-thirds of statewide gain was concentrated. Hiring was strongest among special trade contractors, followed by general building construction.

The finance/insurance/real estate sector also advanced, albeit modestly, over the month. About 200 jobs were added, with contributions coming from the insurance and real estate components. Employment in this industry has changed very

little throughout the year, hampered by the slowdown in refinancing and home buying effected by rising interest rates.

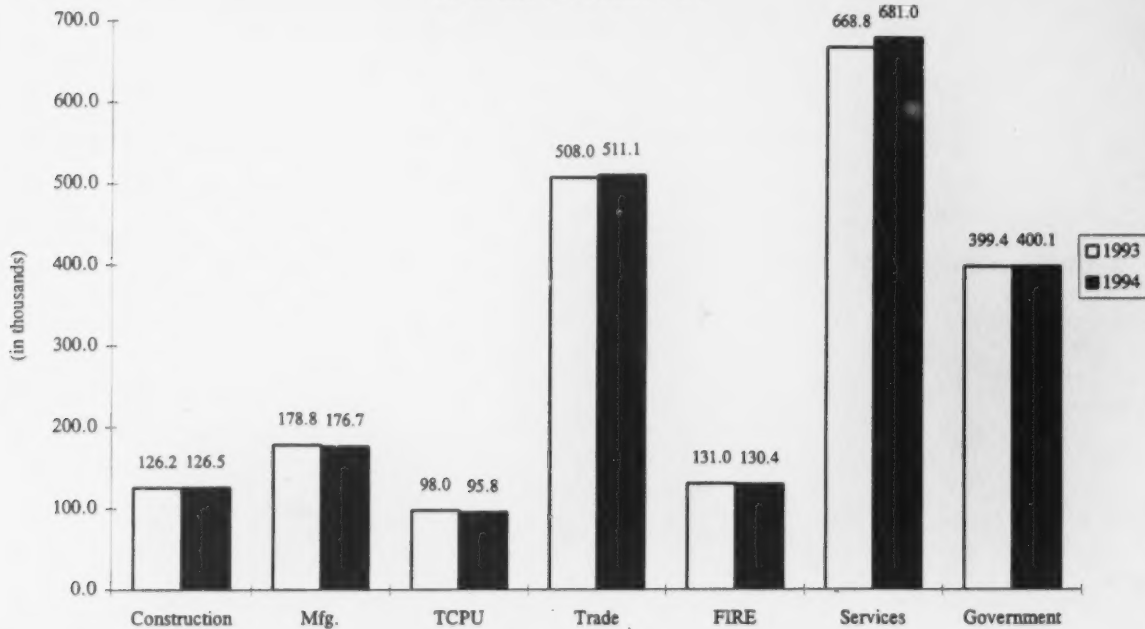
Employment in the trade sector dropped by 1,300, with reductions among retailers serving as the major source of losses. Declines were centered in restaurants and hardware/garden supply stores. Losses in these industries were, however, diminished by hiring at general merchandise, apparel stores, auto dealers and service stations.

In manufacturing where declines are common during July, the job count fell by 600 jobs. In durable goods, reductions in industrial machinery and transportation equipment pulled down the employment total. Among nondurable goods producers, layoffs were confined to the textile and rubber/plastic products industries with declines in the latter affecting the largest number of workers. The downturn in manufacturing, in large part, resulted from vacation shutdowns.

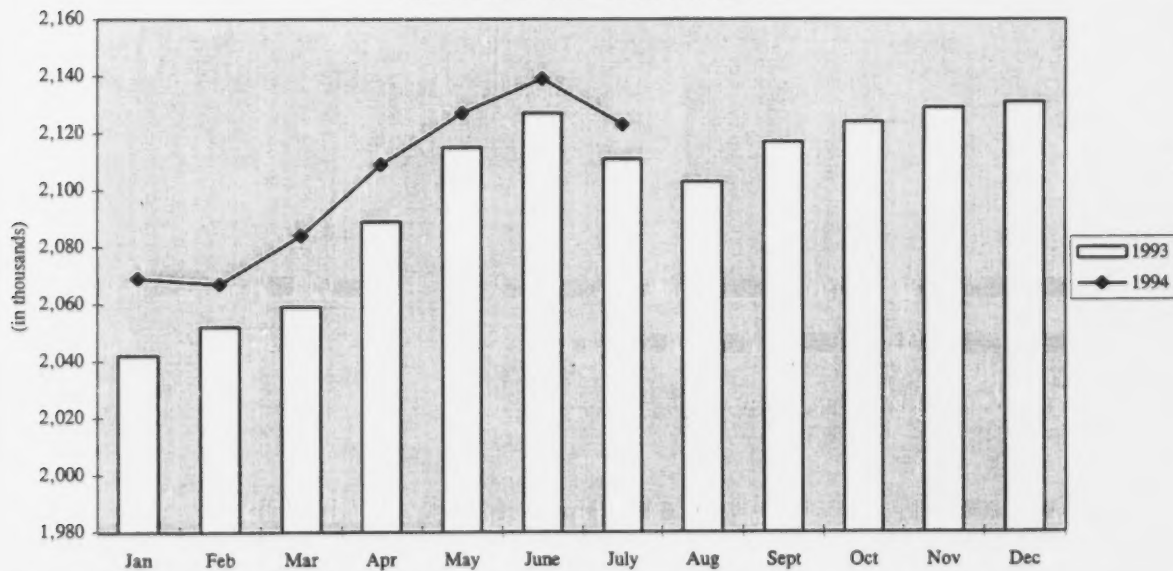
Concurrent with the decline in manufacturing, employers also reduced work schedules somewhat, from 41.8 hours in June to 41.6 hours in July. While hourly payrates were slightly higher in July, the shortened workweek pulled weekly earnings down to \$541.63. In durable goods, workweeks were also shortened, yet remained well above the standard week at 42.8 hours. Production workers in durable goods earned, on average, \$13.94 per hour and \$596.63 per week. At the detailed level, the largest movement in work schedules occurred in transportation equipment where hours dropped from 43.3 to 42.0. Primary metals industries reported the greatest change in earnings, with weekly checks rising by 2.6 percent to \$883.12 in July. A longer workweek, coupled with an upturn in hourly payrates, added to weekly paychecks in this industry.

Meanwhile, in nondurable goods, hours were unchanged at 40.8, however, a modest cut in hourly pay lowered weekly checks to \$500.21. The status of production workers in chemical production was the most changed. Workweeks in this industry were cut by more than a full hour to 42.0, contributing to a drop of more than 4.0 percent in weekly paychecks.

**MARYLAND NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
JULY 1993 AND JULY 1994**



**TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT
JANUARY 1993 THROUGH JULY 1994**



NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
JULY 1994

Industry	July 1994	June** 1994	July 1993	Percent Change July 1993- July 1994
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,122.8	2,139.4	2,111.4	0.5
Goods Producing	304.4	302.0	306.2	-0.6
Mining	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.0
Construction	126.5	123.6	126.2	0.2
Heavy Construction	15.3	15.0	14.7	4.1
Manufacturing	176.7	177.3	178.8	-1.2
Durable Goods	86.2	86.5	86.5	-0.3
Lumber & Wood Products	3.8	3.8	4.0	-5.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	6.6	6.6	6.7	-1.5
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	4.1	4.1	4.0	2.5
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	2.5	2.5	2.7	-7.4
Primary Metal Industries	8.1	8.1	8.6	-5.8
Blast Furnaces	6.5	6.5	7.0	-7.1
Fabricated Metal Products	8.3	8.3	8.4	-1.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Fabricated Metal Products (Inc. 342,343,345-349)	4.4	4.4	4.3	2.3
Industrial Machinery	14.6	14.7	13.8	5.8
Refrigeration & Service Machinery	2.4	2.4	1.9	26.3
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment (Inc. 352-357)	8.5	8.3	8.3	2.4
Electronic Equipment	13.0	13.0	13.2	-1.5
Communications Equipment	5.2	5.1	4.9	6.1
Electronic Component	3.1	3.1	3.3	-6.1
Other Electronic Equipment	4.7	4.8	5.0	-6.0
Transportation Equipment	10.3	10.5	10.2	1.0
Motor Vehicles	4.6	4.7	4.7	-2.1
Other Transportation (Inc. 372-375,379)	3.7	3.8	3.5	5.7
Instruments & Related	16.3	16.3	16.5	-1.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0
Nondurable Goods	90.5	90.8	92.3	-2.0
Food & Kindred Products	21.5	21.5	22.1	-2.7
Meat Products	4.9	4.9	5.0	-2.0
Beverages	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0
Other Food & Kindred (Inc. 202-207)	7.9	7.9	8.0	-1.3
Textile Mill, Apparel	8.7	8.8	8.7	0.0
Paper & Allied Products	8.4	8.4	8.8	-4.5
Printing & Publishing	27.7	27.6	27.7	0.0
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.6	13.5	14.1	-3.5
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	8.3	8.6	8.6	-3.5

Industry	July 1994	June** 1994	July 1993	Percent Change July 1993- July 1994
Service Producing	1,818.4	1,837.4	1,805.2	0.7
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	95.8	97.4	98.0	-2.2
Transportation	54.0	55.7	54.6	-1.1
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	28.2	28.2	28.5	-1.1
Communications & Utilities	41.8	41.7	43.4	-3.7
Communications	26.8	26.7	26.9	-0.4
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	15.0	15.0	16.5	-9.1
Trade	511.1	512.4	508.0	0.6
Wholesale Trade	101.4	101.4	101.7	-0.3
Retail Trade	409.7	411.0	406.3	0.8
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	17.4	17.8	17.3	0.6
General Merchandise Stores	41.2	40.8	41.2	0.0
Food Stores	65.8	65.7	65.0	1.2
Eating & Drinking Places	137.8	140.0	137.3	0.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	130.4	130.2	131.0	-0.5
Finance	60.0	60.0	59.1	1.5
Depository Institutions	39.1	39.3	39.0	0.3
Commercial Banks	24.9	25.2	25.6	-2.7
Insurance	35.8	35.7	37.1	-3.5
Insurance Carriers	23.9	23.8	24.8	-3.6
Real Estate	34.6	34.5	34.8	-0.6
Services	681.0	679.0	668.8	1.8
Business Services	144.6	144.2	142.4	1.5
Health Services	181.2	180.6	177.5	2.1
Hospitals	82.0	81.6	82.3	-0.4
Legal Services	15.9	15.9	15.9	0.0
Educational Services	35.5	36.6	35.0	1.4
Private Colleges, Universities	20.1	20.1	19.5	3.1
Total Government	400.1	418.4	399.4	0.2
Total Federal Government	131.7	132.0	135.2	-2.6
Total State & Local Government	268.4	286.4	264.2	1.6
Total State Government	91.4	95.1	90.1	1.4
State Education	28.4	32.2	28.0	1.4
Other State Government	63.0	62.9	62.1	1.4
Total Local Government	177.0	191.3	174.1	1.7
Local Education	93.4	113.8	92.8	0.6
Other Local Government	83.6	77.5	81.3	2.8

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding and exclusion of some SIC's.

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

**Estimates are revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--JULY 1994**

Industry	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Eastern Shore- Southern Maryland	
	July 1994	June 1994**	July 1994	June 1994**	July 1994	June 1994**	July 1994	June 1994**
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,104.5	1,107.1	776.6	786.6	94.2	94.5	152.0	152.7
Goods Producing	166.4	165.2	88.1	87.2	21.2	21.0	30.4	30.6
Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2
Construction	60.6	58.8	53.4	52.9	5.4	5.2	8.4	8.3
Manufacturing	105.6	106.2	34.5	34.1	15.1	15.2	21.8	22.1
Durable Goods	53.3	53.8	17.5	17.2	6.7	6.7	8.7	8.7
Nondurable Goods	52.3	52.4	17.0	16.9	8.4	8.5	13.1	13.4
Service Producing	938.1	941.9	688.5	699.4	73.0	73.5	121.6	122.1
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	50.7	52.2	31.9	31.9	5.3	5.4	8.2	8.4
Trade	254.4	254.3	190.9	191.2	24.9	24.8	42.1	41.5
Wholesale Trade	59.1	59.0	31.2	31.2	4.6	4.5	5.7	5.8
Retail Trade	195.3	195.3	159.7	160.0	20.3	20.3	36.4	35.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	73.6	73.3	47.7	47.8	3.4	3.4	5.4	5.3
Services	354.9	353.0	258.1	258.4	24.4	24.2	40.0	39.2
Total Government	204.5	209.1	159.9	170.1	15.0	15.7	25.9	27.7
Federal	48.1	48.1	75.0	75.1	1.7	1.7	6.7	6.7
State	67.3	68.0	15.5	18.0	4.6	4.6	4.9	5.0
Local	89.1	93.0	69.4	77.0	8.7	9.4	14.3	16.0

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

**Estimates are revised.

Selected data below the major industry level is available upon request. Estimates are also available for Baltimore City.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES JULY 1994

Industry	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	July 1994	June 1994	July 1994	June 1994	July 1994	June 1994
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.6	41.8	\$541.63	\$542.98	\$13.02	\$12.99
Durable Goods	42.8	43.1	596.63	597.37	13.94	13.86
Lumber and Wood Products	39.7	39.5	361.67	359.45	9.11	9.10
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	45.2	46.1	551.44	562.42	12.20	12.20
Primary Metal Industries	48.1	47.3	883.12	860.39	18.36	18.19
Fabricated Metals	42.5	42.4	501.08	499.47	11.79	11.78
Industrial Machinery	42.6	43.5	594.70	610.74	13.96	14.04
Electronic Equipment	40.3	40.5	487.23	485.19	12.09	11.98
Transportation Equipment	42.0	43.3	730.38	732.64	17.39	16.92
Instruments and Related Products	40.0	39.5	552.00	549.05	13.80	13.90
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	39.9	38.8	406.98	393.82	10.20	10.15
Nondurable Goods	40.8	40.8	500.21	501.02	12.26	12.28
Food and Kindred Products	41.1	41.3	489.91	492.30	11.92	11.92
Textile Mill, Apparel	38.0	37.0	310.84	302.29	8.18	8.17
Paper and Allied Products	43.2	43.5	570.24	563.33	13.20	12.95
Printing and Publishing	38.4	38.5	555.65	554.40	14.47	14.40
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.0	43.3	543.90	567.23	12.95	13.10
Rubber and Plastic Products	43.8	43.2	451.14	459.65	10.30	10.64
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	42.0	42.3	\$576.66	\$575.70	\$13.73	\$13.61
Durable Goods	43.2	43.8	647.14	648.68	14.98	14.81
Nondurable Goods	40.9	41.0	515.34	512.91	12.60	12.51

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	July 1994	June 1994	July 1993
Initial Claims	18,111	19,298	21,419
Weeks Claimed	169,582	186,560	180,513
First Payments	9,554	7,553	9,734
Final Payments	4,135	3,587	1,516
Weeks Paid	136,066	148,655	145,314
Net Benefit Amount	\$24,531,020	\$26,823,503	\$26,262,034
Average Check Amount	\$180.29	\$180.44	\$180.73

Initial applications for unemployment benefits were slightly lower during July, a month when initial filings normally rise. Initial claims, which declined from June by about 1,200 to 18,111, were, however, more than 15.0 percent under their year ago levels. The monthly decline in initials may very well just represent a smoothing out of the atypical movements over the past few months. The statewide drop was supported by declines in each of the four regions. The decline was relatively limited in the Baltimore Metro Area where a number of local offices reported filing increases due to vacation shutdowns in addition to education-related layoffs. The number of weeks claimed for unemployment benefits were also fewer in July, dropping by just over 9.0 percent to a 1994 low of 169,582.

Just over 80.0 percent of all weeks claimed, or 136,066 weeks, resulted in compensation during

July. First payments, rising to 9,554 in July, accounted for an unusually high 7.0 percent of all weekly payments, up from 5.1 percent in June. The number and percentage of weekly checks issued as final payments also escalated over the month. An additional 548 final payment checks were issued over the month, raising July's benefit exhaustions to just over 4,100, or 3.0 percent of all weekly payments. An increase in final payments was reported in all regions of the state with the exception of the Balance of State Area.

With about 12,600 fewer checks to issue in July, the outlay from the UI Trust Fund dropped by 8.5 percent over the month to \$24.5 million in July. For those claimants receiving benefits, payments were little changed, averaging \$180.29 in July.

REGIONAL INDICATORS JULY 1994

	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
Initial Claims	9,913	4,321	1,798	2,061
Weeks Claimed	90,565	38,890	11,726	13,953
First Payments	5,328	2,012	612	1,080
Final Payments	2,252	831	344	378
Weeks Paid	73,840	31,342	9,819	11,470
Net Benefit Amount	\$13,271,494	\$5,983,261	\$1,590,381	\$1,803,146
Average Check Amount	\$179.73	\$190.90	\$161.97	\$157.21

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